



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

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Press Release

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International Day of Families 2011 “Confronting Family Poverty and Social Exclusion Home Economics Perspectives”

Each year the International Day of Families is celebrated on 15th of May. The International Day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families. The theme for 2011 has been chosen

“Confronting Family Poverty and Social Exclusion”

Working in a multi-disciplinary field of profession, Home Economists are aware of the many dimensions of poverty. Poverty not only has physical, but also psychological and social meanings to individuals, families and communities. In addition to fulfilling basic physical needs, attention also has to be paid to family life and the abilities to act as member of communities.

Faces of poverty vary and take different forms in different regions and countries around the world. Home Economists know the difference between situations of poor families and their needs in developed and developing countries and take action to improve their situation from a grassroots level.

Home Economics education is a key factor to improve the daily life skills through basic knowledge, best practices, techniques to enable families to manage their lives and acting as a members of a consumer society in the changing world. By turning the knowledge into everyday life skills, individuals, families and communities can make the best use of the scarce resources available and also add value to them in a sustainable manner.



Home Economists recognises that without income families are not able to perform their multiple functions, like providing nutrition, education and security for their children or adequately care for other family members. Home Economists support development. One main focus of development is education of income generating skills in Home Economics like food growing, conservation and marketing for women especially in developing countries.

In many countries, certain families e.g. as migrants, families with single parents, retired persons and child or elderly headed families are especially vulnerable to poverty. They are also more likely to fall into poverty during times of financial and economic crises. These groups are under a special focus of Home Economics research and best practice aimed to improve their quality of life through education in family and resource management.

Through their multisided work in different disciplines, Home Economists contribute to the alleviation of social exclusion by improving the structures of households and communities and societies. In addition they work for the empowerment of effected individuals and families to improve their own well-being.

The International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) is an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) having consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC, FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF) and with the Council of Europe. The IFHE supports the eradication of poverty and the confronting of social exclusion with its international work:

- To promote the confronting of family poverty and social exclusion on all levels of society from the perspective of everyday life.
- To understand poverty as a complex phenomenon.
- To expand Home Economics education and support this thrust to further meet the challenges of poverty in the changing world.
- To influence and develop policies and public debate to promote eradication of poverty and social exclusion.
- To promote the recognition of Home Economics potentiality in the eradication of poverty and confronting of social exclusion.